

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTATIVE SERVICES) DEVOLUTION

Housing & Health Advisory Committee - 4 October 2016

Report of Chief Officer Communities & Business

Status: For consideration

Also considered by: Cabinet - 10 November 2016

Key Decision: Yes

Executive Summary: This report gives details of the proposed devolution arrangement for Public Health and Health Improvement in partnership with Kent County Council, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils

This report supports the Key Aim of a healthy environment and reducing the health inequalities gap.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Michelle Lowe

Contact Officer Lesley Bowles, Ext 7430

Recommendation to Housing & Health Advisory Committee:

- (a) To consider the proposed arrangements;
- (b) To recommend to Cabinet that the principles of the West Kent Public Health Preventative Services devolution model and the Partnership Agreement are approved.

Recommendation to Cabinet:

- a) To approve the principles of the West Kent Public Health Preventative Services devolution model;
- b) To approve the Partnership Agreement, as set out in the Annex to this report.

It is anticipated that, by the time this report is considered by Cabinet, the West Kent Integration Board will have set out their proposed governance arrangements.

Reason for recommendation: This will enable the Council to act in the best interests of its residents in the provision of local health improvement activity.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The West Kent Board was set up in response to the Government's devolution agenda. It is made up of the leaders of the four Councils, Kent, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells. Meetings are also attended by the three Chief Executives and two Officers from the County Council.
- 2 The Board aims to retain the individual sovereignty of the four councils, save money by taking out waste and duplication and develop structures that enable services to be co-commissioned, delegated or devolved.
- 3 The Board is currently operating in shadow format and has set up a range of working groups focussing on different issues where it is thought that better integrated working between the two tiers of government could have local benefits. Priority was given to opportunities where there was consensus across the four authorities, the risks were low and benefits high. One of the groups was set up to focus on arrangements for public health (preventative services).
- 4 The Board has approved in principle the proposed model and Partnership Agreement and is considering further the governance arrangements for this and other workstreams.

The proposed model and Partnership Agreement

- 5 The proposed model and Partnership Agreement are set out in the Annex to this report.

Key Implications

Financial

- 6 There is no commitment to any additional funding on the part of the District Council as part of this partnership arrangement. There is a commitment to ensure that some identified funding streams identified in the Annex, eg Disabled Facilities Grants, grants to voluntary organisations, youth funding, are used not only to achieve their own objectives but also work harder and smarter in order to address health improvement objectives also. More detail is set out in the Annex to this report.
- 7 Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement. These arrangements rely on working in partnership. Currently the West Kent Integration Board works on a partnership basis and a group of Officers is working on the governance arrangements. Kent County Council has the statutory responsibility for health. Any procurement that takes place will be a joint decision but the arrangements will be the responsibility of the County Council.

Equality Assessment

This is addressed in the Annex to this report.

Conclusions

The proposed partnership arrangements provide an opportunity to improve on the current public health (preventative services) model as the current funding comes to a close. The new arrangement offers increased influence by the District Council in terms of the local provision, along with KCC funding to enable our activity. It is a model which supports and enhances the Sevenoaks District (now West Kent) Health Deal.

Appendices

Annex consisting of the report and appendices presented to the 20th September 2016 meeting of the West Kent Integration Board

Background Papers:

As set out in the Annex to this report.

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Lesley Bowles

Chief Officer Communities & Business